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1. Organization:

As is common in most large Soviet cities, Gorki [56° 20' N, 44° 00' E] had its own Office of Buildings. All construction and repairing of schools, hospitals, hotels, and housing (other than industry) was handled by this Office.

There were several Departments [redacted] each dealing with specific matters of public construction. [redacted]

only. Each Department was responsible to the Director of Building for the city.

2. Standards:

Gorki, being located in what is known as the middle-climatic zone of the USSR, had certain construction requirements in accordance with climatic conditions. The most important of these was a technical requirement for the thickness of walls to be from 67 to 68 centimeters to combat the severe winters. This approximates two and one half bricks. As a standard, the thickness of two and one half bricks was used in other than brick construction. The bricks measured 25 x 12½ x 6 (centimeters).

School building standards are the same throughout the USSR, depending upon the size of the construction. For example, all schools are divided into three classifications:

- (a) Bureau schools - complete (elementary, grammar or secondary, and high school).

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- (b) Normal schools - incomplete (elementary and grammar).
- (c) Elementary schools.

Each type school was divided into the following:

- (a) Normal schools (complete) with a capacity of:
 - (1) 1400 students
 - (2) 860 students
 - (3) 720 students
- (b) Normal schools (incomplete) with a capacity of:
 - (1) 860 students
 - (2) 720 students
 - (3) 640 students
 - (4) 380 students
- (c) Elementary schools with a capacity of:
 - (1) 380 students
 - (2) 240 students
 - (3) 210 students

Standardized plans were used for each type, dependent upon the number of students to be accommodated. For example, a complete normal school for 720 students called for 18 classrooms plus 18 additional rooms for administration, laboratories, auditorium, lavatories and dining room.

3. Public buildings were constructed of red brick. If the building was ordered to be a "showplace", the front of the building would be faced with stucco or plaster, or a design would be inserted of white brick. The buildings were usually three stories high. The inside walls of the buildings would be plastered with 3/4 inch plaster of the usual plaster mixture plus charcoal which was added for insulation. If a particular room was to be a "showroom", a thin facing of pure white plaster would be placed on the rough wall. Usually, the rough plaster would be merely painted. Foundations were four and one half meters in depth and of a stone and concrete construction. Roofs on housing were of two thicknesses of tarred paper, while other public buildings were usually of slate.

4. Materials:

Gorki was one of a very few cities in the USSR that were almost self-supporting. A highly industrialized city, practically all materials were manufactured there. However, all of the best materials were given to the various important industries, while public construction had to be content with second and third grade material. As an example, lumber was divided into Grades 1, 2, and 3 for industry. Grade 2 would be considered as Grade 1 for public construction.

Brick was most commonly used in public buildings. There were several brick kilns in Gorki and there was no great shortage. In the so-called middle climatic zone concrete buildings were not considered healthy from a sanitation standpoint because they were usually damp and cold.

Lumber was fairly plentiful, although of poor grade. It was generally consumed for one year before use.

Plumbing supplies were scarce because of the diversion of steel and iron products to industry. This shortage caused many delays in the completion of certain buildings. All plumbing supplies came from Gorki plants.

Nails, paints, electrical equipment, etc, all came from Gorki and were of good quality.

5. Tools and Equipment:

There was a scarcity of building equipment for city construction. There were motor driven concrete mixers, some motorized cranes, and a few power saws and sanders. Hand tools were of good quality, but were not too plentiful.

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6. Labor:

[REDACTED]

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7. Building Codes:

A specified space had to be allowed between buildings, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All wiring had to pass a safety inspection; and while it was permissible to use fireproofed wire in the open, if concealed, it had to pass through metal conduits. Insofar as fireproofing was concerned, every building that was to be used as a public institution such as, schools, hospitals, and office-buildings, had to have fireproof walls, doors, stairways, fire escapes and roofs. A maximum of 15 meters was permitted between fireproofed doors. All doors had to open in the same direction.

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for two years before use.

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